Bypassing of directives regarding import of sugar

5089. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in "The Statesman" dated the 7th February, 1995 under the heading 'Sugar import directive bypasses Food Ministry';

(b) if so, what are the details of the import order placed by his Ministry; and

(c) whether the Food Ministry was consulted before placing the import order and if not, what are the reasons theerfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government have noted the news items published in the Statesman of 7th Feb.. '95.

(b) and (c) Based on the overall assessment of the demand and supply of sugar in the country, for which inputs were also provided by the Ministry of Food, Government directed the State Trading Corporation and MMTC to import sugar for the public distribution system.

भारतीय पर्यावरणीय जैव-विविधता के तत्वों का विदेशों में पेटेन्ट दिया जाना

5090. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय पर्यावरणीय जैव-विविधता के तत्वों को पहले से ही विदेशों में पेटेन्ट किया जा चुका है, जो कि "गैट" समझौते के अनुसार वैध है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित किया है कि जिन देशों से ये सूक्ष्म जीव संबंध रखते हैं, उन देशों को इसका लाभ मिले;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ङ) क्या कतिपय विदेशी कंपनियों ने विदेशों में स्थित जीव बैंक में भारतीय पर्यावरणीय और जैव-विविधता के कुछ नमूनों का भंडारण किया है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इन कंपनियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम): (क) से (च) सरकार विदेशों में दिए गए पेटेंटों के बारे में सूचना नहीं रखती है। भारत की जैव सामग्री के नमूने विदेशों में जीन बैंकों में उपलब्ध हैं। भारत से एक्सेस की जाने वाली जैव सामग्री के लिए फिलहाल सरकारी अनुमति की जरूरत नहीं है। तथापि, भारत ने जैव-विविधता संबंधी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किये हैं जिसमें जैव सामग्री के राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं से बाहर हस्तान्तरण को विनियमित करने का प्रावधान है। इसमें यह भी प्रावधान है कि किसी जैविक-संसाधन पर किये गए अनुसंधान से प्राप्त होने वाली आय तथा उक्त अनुसंधान के परिणामों को यदि पेटेंट दिया गया है तो उससे प्राप्त होने वाली आय का हिस्सा भी उस जैविक सामग्री के स्रोत देश को मिलेगा। सरकार समझौते के प्रावधानों के अनुसार जैव-विविधता के संरक्षण के लिए एक कानून का प्ररूप तैयार कर रही है। इसके अलावा, सरकार पौध-उत्पादक के अधिकारों के संरक्षण के लिए भी कानून बनाने में लगी है।

Input norms for drug products

5091. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether input nonns for a number of chug products have been fixed;

(b) if so, on whose recommendations they were fixed and when and how often they have been revised;

(c) what is the sanctity of such norms when quantity of input changes with efficiency and scale of operation;

(d) whether it is a fact that such norms are the main hindrances for exports and are helping in the development of vested interests; and

(e) what steps are being take to dismantle the norms and monitor exports on the basis of norms which me leading to loss of foreign ex-change and transfer. of vital raw materials, if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (e) The focus of Duty Exemption Scheme, a key export promotion measures, rests on standardisation of Input-Output Norms- The norms facilitate determination of proportion of various inputs required in the export items. The standardisation of norms is a continuous and on-going process and they provide easy and guaranteed access of duty free imports and speedy disposal of applications.

Input-Output Norms have been fixed for a number of Drug products. The norms are fixed on the recommendation of Special Advance Licensing Committee (SALC), an inter-Ministerial Committee in the Office of the Diretcor General of Foreign Trade. With change of efficiency and scale of operation, the norms are also modified as and when the SALC is approached. In view of the predictable and non-discretionary operation introduced by standardi-. sation of norms which are a help to the exporters ratherr than hindrance, there is no proposal to dismantle the procedure for standardisation of norms.

Closure of coffee board sales outlets

5092. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there lias been a total confusion in the domestic coffee market due to closure of Coffee Board sales outlets all over the country;

(b) what is the reason for there being no adequate release for domestic consumption and why the Coffee Board has failed to stabilise the Prices at reasonable levels; and

(c) whether Government would nationalise the concept of economic price for mass consumption items like coffee, co-relating the same with the purchasing power of the consumer and whether Government would abandom the proposal for switching over to a 100 per cent free-sale quota regime until adequate supplies are ensured for domestic consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. Out of 62 promotional outlets of Coffee Board, 61 are functioning till date-

(b) There is no shortage of coffee in the domestic market. The price rise of coffee has been mainly due to the sharp increase of price in the international market owing to re ported crop failure in Brazil. In order to ease the situation in the domestic market, the Govt, had put a quantitative restriction on exports apart from banning few grades of coffee for export till 31st December, 1994 and it was removed after ensuring adequate availability of coffee in the domestic market. However, domestic prices continue to be de termined by international movement of coffee prices.

(c) In step with the policy of libe ralisation enunciated by the Govt., decisions with regard to FSQ has